

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 140053

44

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140053

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: CYPRUS MISSING PERSONS DELEGATION

REF: STATE 134158, NICOSIA 1876, ANKARA 4523

1. CYPRUS MISSING PERSONS DELEGATION CONSISTING OF MESSRS. FYSENTZIDES, IOANNOU, AND KASSAPIS CALLED ON EUR DEP AST SEC LAINGEN JUNE 9 TO ASK US TO USE INFLUENCE WITH TURKS TO OBTAIN THEIR COOPERATION ON MISSING PERSONS ISSUE. DELEGATION, WHICH RECEIVED PRESS COVERAGE HERE AND HAS MET WITH SENATOR HART AND OTHER CONGRESSMEN, STRESSED HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF THEIR MISSION. MR. SIEVERTS, SPEC. ASST. TO
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 140053

DEP. SEC. FOR POW/MIA MATTERS, ALSO PRESENT.

2. DELEGATION RECOGNIZED LIKELIHOOD THAT MOST OF 2500 MISSING PERSONS WERE NOT ALIVE BUT SAID THAT THE UNCERTAINTY, LACK OF INFORMATION, AND UNCOOPERATIVE TURKISH ATTITUDE WERE CAUSING GREAT ANGUISH IN CYPRUS. MAIN THRUST OF PRESENTATION, HOWEVER, WAS THAT TURKS, DESPITE DENIALS, WERE HOLDING UNDECLARED GREEK-CYPRIOOT PRISONERS OF WAR. AS "PROOF", DELEGATION LEFT TWO DOSSIERS WITH DEPARTMENT CONTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT KASSAPIS CASE, AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF MISSING GREEK CYPRIOTS ALLEGEDLY TAKEN IN TURKISH PRISON CAMPS, AND STATEMENTS BY VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS THAT THEY KNEW

OF PERSONS LISTED AS MISSING WHO WERE ACTUALLY IN TURKISH PRISONS (COMMENT: ON WHOLE, EVIDENCE PRESENTED WAS NEITHER CONCLUSIVE NOR CONVINCING).

3. LAINGEN RESPONDED THAT WITH OUR OWN EXPERIENCE OF MISSING PERSONS IN VIET NAM WE KNOW THE ANGUISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE FEEL FOR THEIR MISSING FRIENDS AND RELATIVES. IN CONTEXT OF OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, US HAS URGED TURKS TO BE AS COOPERATIVE AS POSSIBLE IN THESE HUMANITARIAN MATTERS. WE HAVE ALSO ASSISTED THE ICRC'S GENEVA CONVENTION AND PROTECTION WORK WITH SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS (4.8 MILLION DOLS TO DATE). AS DELEGATION KNEW, TURKS HAVE CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED THAT NO GREEK OR GREEK CYPRIOTS ARE BEING HELD. US WOULD, HOWEVER, TAKE THIS UP AGAIN WITH TURKS AND URGE THEIR MAXIMUM COOPERATION IN THE HUMANITARIAN TALKS, WHICH WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IS BEST FORUM FOR DEALING WITH THE MISSING PERSONS QUESTION.

4. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSIES ANKARA AND NICOSIA SHOULD APPROACH (RESPECTIVELY) APPROPRIATE TURKISH AND TURKISH CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES, BRIEF THEM ON LAINGEN'S REPLY TO THE MISSING PERSONS DELEGATION DRAWING ON PARA 3, AND EXPRESS HOPE THAT BOTH SIDES WILL CONTINUE THEIR COOPERATION IN THE HUMANITARIAN TALKS AND FIND WAYS TO DEVELOP AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON MISSING PERSONS, INCLUDING THOSE PRESUMED DEAD, AND PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 140053

5. FYI: TURKISH DCM IN WASHINGTON EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POLITICAL OVERTONES OF DELEGATION'S CONTACTS WITH VARIOUS CONGRESSMEN AND RECEIVED GENERAL BRIEFING ON DELEGATION'S VISIT AND LAINGEN'S RESPONSE. KISSINGER

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